

This chapter traces the growth and development of Rome from its humble beginnings on the banks of the Tiber River through its republican phase and its transformation into a sprawling, cosmopolitan empire encompassing much of Europe and northern Africa. A tight administrative structure and organized trade network promoted the movement of people, goods, and ideas throughout the empire. The Romans had a significant impact on later Mediterranean, European, and southwest Asian cultures. These influences include, but are not limited to,

- The concept of a republican form of government governed by a constitution and a fixed body of law that guaranteed the rights of citizens.
- Economically specialized regions, either in the development of cash crops for export or in localized industries.
- Elaborate transportation and communications networks with sophisticated roads, sea lanes linking port cities, and an imperial postal system.
- New cities built throughout the empire with unprecedented levels of sanitation, comfort, and entertainment opportunities.
- Widespread dissemination of philosophical beliefs and values, like Stoicism, and religions of salvation, like Christianity.

### 1. From Kingdom to Republic

#### A. The Etruscans and Rome

- 1) Romulus and Remus: legendary twins rescued by a she-wolf; founded Rome in 753 B.C.E.
- 2) The Etruscans dominated Italy eighth to 5<sup>th</sup> centuries B.C.E.
- 3) The kingdom of Rome was on the Tiber River

**What contributions did the Etruscans and the early Roman monarchy make to the Roman republic?**

#### B. The Roman republic and its Constitution

- 1) Establishment of the republic
  - a. Rome nobility deposed the last Etruscan king in 509 B.C.E.
  - b. Republican constitution included two consuls: civil and military
  - c. Consuls were elected by an assembly dominated by the patricians
  - d. Senate advised the consuls and ratified major decisions
  - e. Both Senate and consuls represented the interests of the patricians
- 2) Conflicts between patricians and plebeians
  - a. Patricians granted plebeians the tribunes
  - b. Tribunes' power to intervene and veto decisions
  - c. Plebeians' tribunes dominated Roman politics, early 3<sup>rd</sup> century B.C.E.

**How did the republican constitution set the stage for conflict between the patricians and the plebeians?**

**C. The expansion of the Republic**

- 1) Rome consolidated its position in Italy, 5<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries B.C.E.
- 2) Conflict with Carthage (Punic Wars) and Hellenistic realms
- 3) Rome became preeminent power in eastern and western Mediterranean

**What was the significance of the Punic Wars to the later development of Rome?**

**2. From Republic to Empire**

**A. Imperial Expansion and Domestic Problems**

- 1) The Gracchi brothers supported land redistribution; both were assassinated
- 2) Military commanders recruited rural and urban poor--intensely loyal armies
  - a. Gaius Marius: general who advocated land redistribution
  - b. Conservative aristocratic class supported general Lucius Cornelius Sulla
- 3) Civil war

**In general, how did the Romans deal with the people and lands that they conquered?**

**What inherent weaknesses in the political and economic institutions of Rome did the Gracchi brothers' conflicts highlight?**

**B. The Foundation of Empire**

- 1) Julius Caesar: very popular social reformer and conqueror (Gaul)
  - a. Seized Rome in 49 B.C.E.
  - b. Claimed the title "dictator for life," 46 B.C.E.
  - c. Social reforms and centralized control
  - d. Assassinated in 44 B.C.E.
- 2) Octavian brought civil conflict to an end
  - a. Senate bestowed title "Augustus", 27 B.C.E.
  - b. Monarchy disguised as a republic
  - c. Created a new standing army under his control
  - d. The imperial institutions began to take root

**Describe the transition from republic to empire in the 1<sup>st</sup> century B.C.E.**

**C. Continuing Expansion and Integration of the Empire**

- 1) Roman expansion into Mediterranean basin, western Europe, down Nile to Kush
- 2) *Pax romana*, Roman Peace, for two and a half centuries
- 3) Well-engineered Roman roads; postal system
- 4) Roman law--tradition: twelve tables (450 B.C.E.)

### 3. Economy and Society in the Roman Mediterranean

#### A. Trade and Urbanization

- 1) Owners of *latifundia* focused on specialized production for export
- 2) Mediterranean trade
  - a. Sea lanes linked ports of the Mediterranean
  - b. Roman navy kept the seas largely free of pirates
  - c. The Mediterranean became a Roman lake
- 3) The city of Rome
  - a. Wealth of the city fueled its urban development
  - b. Statues, pools, fountains, arches, temples, stadiums
  - c. First use of concrete as construction material
  - d. Rome attracted numerous immigrants
  - e. Attractions: baths, pools, gymnasia, circuses, stadiums, amphitheaters

**How did the Romans promote trade throughout the empire?**

#### B. Family and Society in Roman Times

- 1) The *pater familias*--eldest male of the family ruled
  - a. Women wielded considerable influence within their families
  - b. Many women supervised family business and wealthy estates
- 2) Wealth and social change
  - a. Newly rich classes built palatial houses and threw lavish banquets
  - b. Cultivators and urban masses lived at subsistence level
  - c. Poor classes became a serious problem in Rome and other cities
  - d. No urban policy developed, only "bread and circuses"
- 3) Slavery--one-third of the population
  - a. Spartacus's uprising in 73 B.C.E.
  - b. Urban slaves saw better conditions and possibility of manumission

**What was the status of women during the empire?**

### 4. The Cosmopolitan Mediterranean

#### A. Greek Philosophy and Religions of Salvation

- 1) Roman deities: gods, goddesses, and household gods
- 2) Greek influence--Stoicism
  - a. Appealed to Roman intellectuals
  - b. Cicero (106-43 B.C.E.) persuasive orator and writer on Stoicism
- 3) Religions of salvation gave sense of purpose and promised afterlife
  - a. Roman roads served as highways for religious spread
  - b. Mithraism was popular with Roman soldiers--men only
  - c. Cult of Isis very popular

**AP World History Class Notes**  
**Ch 11 Roman Empire**

September 22, 2005

**B. Judaism and Early Christianity**

- 1) Monotheistic Jews considered state cults to be blasphemy
- 2) The Essenes, sect of Judaism; Dead Sea Scrolls
- 3) Jesus of Nazareth
  - a. Charismatic Jewish teacher, taught devotion to God and love for human beings
  - b. Attracted large crowds through his wisdom and miraculous powers
  - c. The teaching “the kingdom of God is at hand” alarmed the Romans
  - d. Crucifixion in early 30s C.E.
  - e. Became “Christ,” or “the anointed one”
- 4) The New Testament and the Old Testament became the holy book of Christianity
- 5) Paul of Tarsus was principle figure in spread of Christianity
- 6) Rapid growth of early Christianity
  - a. Strong appeal to lower classes, urban population, and women
  - b. Became the most influential faith in the Mediterranean by the 3<sup>rd</sup> century C.E.

**How did Jesus’ message threaten the Roman administration? How did they respond?**

**What was the appeal of the early Christian teachings? What sorts of people were most attracted to it?**